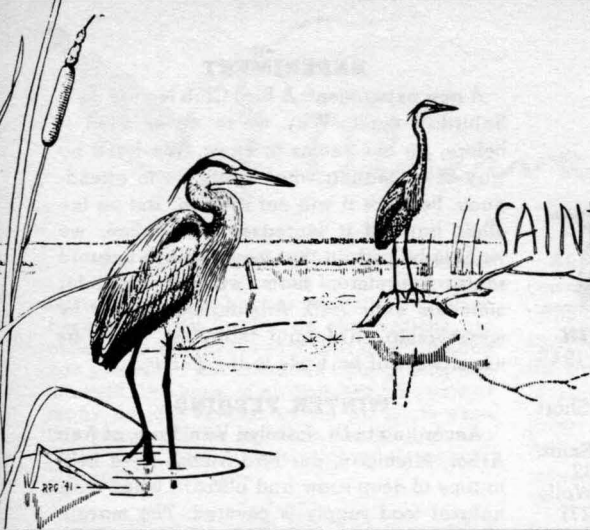




SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB

BULLETIN

VOL. 14, No. 1

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1945

BRIGHT FEATHERS

The first Saturday lecture in the Club's history is scheduled to take place on the evening of February third at St. Louis University Auditorium, 3642 Lindell. Murl Deusing, popular natural history lecturer of the Milwaukee Public Museum will present "Bright Feathers", a sparkling story of fun and color in the out-of-doors. The scene is Door County, Wisconsin, a favorite resort area of the Middle West. Visits are made to Peninsula State Park, Ridges Flower Sanctuary, to farms, daisy fields and cherry orchards. Showy lady slippers and handsome orchids are spotted by the Deusing children. A night hawk is found rolling a stray egg back to its nest. Emphasis of the film is on the common everyday birds most of us know: the yellow warbler, black-billed cuckoo, cliff swallow, night hawk, towhee, Baltimore oriole, downy woodpecker, cedar waxwing, bluebird and goldfinch. Don't miss "Bright Feathers", Saturday, February third, 8:00 p. m.



Murl Deusing

MURL DEUSING

Murl Deusing, our February lecturer, is a photographer by birth. He was born and reared in a photographer's studio, both his father and brother being professional portrait photographers. He is a graduate of the Milwaukee State Teachers College and for the past thirteen years has been lecturer for the Milwaukee Public Museum. Mr. Deusing is the author of a book on conservation used in Junior high schools. He is a past president of the Wisconsin Ornithological Society and is a national director of the Izaak Walton League. As a lecturer Murl Deusing is a master. Charming beauty, sparkling good humor and flawless photography characterize his films. He is the father of Diane, fourteen, Drusilla, thirteen, Dorothy, eleven, and Donald, nine, who are the chief characters in his "Bright Feathers" film, an appealing combination of birds and children. The Deusing family out-of-doors have the richest sort of experiences, appealing to all for they are just what any family enjoys having.

Remaining Audubon Wildlife Screen Tours, 1944-45

FEBRUARY 3, SATURDAY

"Bright Feathers": Murl Deusing of Milwaukee. St. Louis U. Auditorium. 8 P.M. FREE.

MARCH 26, MONDAY

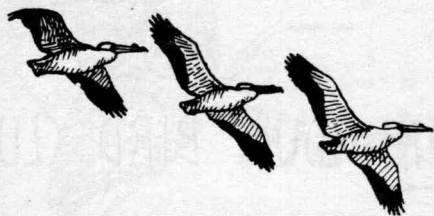
"High Country": Alfred M. Bailey of Denver. Soldan High School. 8 P.M. FREE.

APRIL 27, FRIDAY

"Birds on the Home Front": Dr. A. A. Allen, Ithaca, N. Y. Soldan High School. 8 P.M. Bird Club Loyalty Night. FREE. Loyalty contributions asked.

MAY 21, MONDAY

"A Bird Artist at Home and Afield": Sara and Athos Menaboni, Dunwoody, Georgia. City Art Museum. 8 P.M. FREE.



ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN
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A PROBLEM

The Board of Directors of the Club is as anxious as all attending the lectures to make them more enjoyable. We recognize the increasing problem of disturbances by a few unruly children. The Board wishes to assure the membership that it is working on ways and means of control, and asks that you be patient until the problem can be solved.

* * *

The Club offers for your convenience and pleasure the following items:

1. Club stationery, Great Blue Heron by Dick Grossenheider. This attractive personal stationery is priced at 1c per sheet and 1c. per envelope.

2. Club Poster Stamps and Album, 6 drawings by Dick Grossenheider, 25c; autographed album and set of 6 stamps, \$1.00; 24 stamps, 25c; 48 stamps, 50c; 78 stamps, 75c; 102 stamps, \$1.00.

These exquisitely executed drawings are truly a collector's item, and may be obtained so reasonably that we suggest that you use them on your letters to encourage nature interest.

3. Sterling P. Jones' "Migratory and Permanent Resident Birds in the St. Louis Region", a guide to species found in this region, 10c.

4. Handy check list of species in the St. Louis area, particularly useful in the field: two for five cents; fifty for \$1.00.

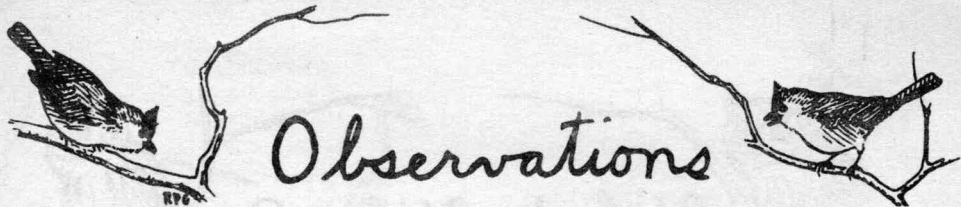
The above may be purchased at the lectures or from Helen Einspanier, 1607 Continental Building.

EXPERIMENT

A new experiment: A Bird Club lecture on a Saturday night. Why we've never tried it before, no one seems to know. We have no way of estimating what it will do to attendance. Perhaps it will cut it down. But on the other hand if it increases attendance, we want to be certain that members are assured seats. Therefore, seats will be held for members until 7:45. Admittance will be by membership card until that time. Then as usual we will be hosts to the public.

WINTER FEEDING

According to Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, our bird friends need help in time of deep snow and blizzard when their natural food supply is covered. The margin of safety in survival of birds is much smaller than our own. An English sparrow, even in the summer time, will die of starvation within 48 hours if deprived of food. During long winter nights when food is scarce, or even non-existent except for human care and kindness, it is important to give birds a help over the hump. In later years of plenty, they will pay you back with much interest on your investment, both human and economic. Birds are like high speed motors. They live at a higher tempo than do humans. Their margin of safety is less, so they must live at a faster pace, their heart beats and pulse are faster, their temperature is higher, their nervous system is much more sensitive, their eyes are more alert, often microscopic or telephoto in effect, to enable them to detect minute organisms at close and far range. The world would be a dreary place, indeed, without their intense activity and colorful song and service to the good earth. Many people ask, "What can we do about it"? The easiest answer is: bread crumbs, scraps from the table. Or, the next time you visit the butcher shop and can get it, get some suet. "Suet! Do it!" is the shortest poem that the birds understand. There are many foods which birds thrive on: sunflower seed, peanuts, cracked corn and wheat, millet, hemp, and a hundred other wild weed seeds which they will find themselves and save you the trouble of pulling weeds next summer, even ragweed. Why not try a good commercial bird food as advertised in this issue of the Bulletin? As the blue jay says as he jumps up and down on a cold, clear morning, "Suet! Do it!" Don't forget the birds when a blizzard comes. Forty-eight hours may be fateful in a sustained storm.



If the Birder of the Year would kindly identify himself, we would be most happy to tell all about him, but this year has, doubtless, been our worst insofar as observations are concerned due to the fact that gas rationing has prevented our members from getting into the field. We know of no observer who saw as many as 200 species in the St. Louis area this year, and we feel that the title, "Birder of the Year", is not deserving unless at least 200 species are seen.

* * *

Karl Ellingsun and Bill Kelley report a good observation some time back at St. James, Mo. In a group of birds flying overhead, the following were identified: three Turkey Vultures, four Black Vultures, and one Cooper's Hawk. The Black Vulture is seldom noted in Missouri.

All St. Louis Bird Club members mourn the passing of one of the nation's most colorful figures, Jack Miner, of Kingsville, Ontario, who did so much in his lifetime for the bird world.

* * *

Locally we mourn, also, the death of Dr. George E. Hourn, who only last season presented such a splendid lecture before the Club on local birds, and who was the first and only person in the United States, insofar as we know, to have filmed the European Tree Sparrow.

ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR.

A winter night crowd of 1000 welcomed the opportunity to take a synthetic trip south on the evening of January 4, when Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Southern Representative of the National Audubon Society, brought to St. Louis University Auditorium "Wonders of the Southern Wilderness". From the heart of the Everglades there were grotesque "Antediluvian" roseate spoonbills; from Lake Okeechobee, the limpkin and exotic snowy egrets; from the Kissimmie prairie, laughing, burrowing owls and the mating dance of the Florida crane; from coastal marshes of Louisiana, ducks, geese, and miscellaneous wildlife in profusion; and from the inland bays and barren beaches of the Texas coast, black skimmers, terns and pelicans, the boat-tailed grackle. For variety's sake, water hyacinths in bloom; a tree snail in action; Spanish moss and palmettos; fascinating studies of Seminole Indians in Florida; muskrat houses and sedges in Louisiana; yuccas, cactus, and winterberry in bloom along the Rio Grande.

W. F. KUBICHEK

One of the largest crowds in Bird Club history, 1800 strong, greeted W. F. Kubichek at our November Audubon Wildlife Screen Tour at Soldan High School. Mr. Kubichek, of the Fish and Wildlife Service in Chicago, responded with a fascinating film on Alaska, an alluring country of abundant wildlife, magnificent scenery, and interesting people. Highlights of the film were: trout and herring fishing, dog teams dragging poles from the forest, wolf and beaver hunting, eskimos curing meat. Finest sections of the film were those devoted to animals: porcupines, deer, mountain goats, caribou, mountain sheep, fox, and the largest carnivorous animal on earth, the Alaskan brown bear. And most spectacular of all, the hump-backed whale leaping completely out of the water, and the rarely photographed, amazing sea otter at home. Our thanks to W. F. Kubichek for this opportunity to see how really alluring Alaska can be.



Who's Who?



The Northwoods Garden Club dedicated its new Bird Sanctuary on Sunday, October 8. Bird Club member Mrs. H. C. Bartels, president of the Northwoods Garden Club and Regional Bird Chairman, presided. Among the speakers was Mrs. Erle Jackson, State Bird Chairman. At the close of the dedication the new sanctuary area, comprising some 350 acres, was turned over to the city of Northwoods by Mrs. Bartels.

* * *

It was with a hearty welcome that we listened to Col. Joseph E. Vollmar introduce Mr. Sprunt at our last lecture. Back after two years in England, France, and even Germany itself, Col. Vollmar has won the Legion of Merit for his overseas service building bases for the A.A.F. in England.

* * *

Mr. Paul Bakewell, Jr. introduced Mr. W. F. Kubichek, our November lecturer.

* * *

Billie McCord, one of our Contact Committee members, was married to Master-Sgt. Laverre G. Grim in St. Louis on December 6, and now lives in Santa Monica, California. Billie was responsible for seeing that all of our many nation-wide friends did not lose contact with us. Our thanks to her for her work.

* * *

More vital statistics . . . the marriages of Paula Wilhelmi to F. W. Moody, Elizabeth Weber to Harry Howard (the Howards' will make their new home in Los Angeles), and Effie May Jennings to Raymond Louis Herbert.

We are pleased to record the following additions to and changes in the Bird Club membership from October 24 to December 31: New Sustaining Members: Robert L. Blanke, Constance Brown, Mrs. Percy Coleman, Dr. Harry M. Fisher, Mrs. George Gellhorn, Mrs. Nea Hough, Hugo A. Koelle, Mrs. Elizabeth Schmidt, Mrs. W. W. Stamm. Dr. Louis H. Behrens, an Honorary Member, has also become a Sustaining Member. Changed from Active to Sustaining: Mrs. G. G. Burgard, Hattie Ettinger, W. S. Ford, Mrs. W. K. Roth. New Active Members: Eula Adams, Leo Bowen, Mrs. A. Shapleigh Boyd, Grace Braurath, Ruth Braurath, Henrietta Brocksmith, Josephine Burgess, Maude L. Butler, Keith Chandler, S. A. Christian, Eugene R. Daigger, Mrs. August Eves, Dora Foster, Louis H. Fritsch, Jr., Louise Gartiser, Mildred Hayes, Paula Heldman, Fred J. Herzog, Blanche G. Higgins, Gene Jackson, Oscar C. Kuehn, Mrs. Meta Ludwick, Percy A. Lyon. Vesta McClain, C. E. McIntire, Edith A. McKelvey, Edith L. Olson, Lyle W. Pace, Irene S. Pettit, Nat. H. Purmort, Francis J. Reithel, Mrs. Francis J. Reithel, James Reitz, W. H. Self, Jr., Thelma Tefft, Mrs. Laurent Torno, Charles Vogt, Alice U. Walz, Mrs. Herman F. Walz, Mrs. Barnard Willis and Dorothy M. Wood.

* * *

Anne Heldenberg has moved recently to Los Angeles, Cal., and has become connected with the Los Angeles Audubon Society.

TO THE BIRD CLUB

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